



# County of San Diego

Department of Environmental Health  
Land and Water Quality Division

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## Permit Processing for Fire-Damaged Homes For Sites Served by Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems

The Department of Environmental Health (DEH) will facilitate permit processing as much as possible to help property owners rebuild homes that have been recently damaged or destroyed by fire. If the rebuild of the dwelling proposes to use the same footprint and bedroom number as the originally approved dwelling, DEH can sign off on the building permit application over-the counter (OTC) and fees will be waived. Proof that the damaged structure is being replaced on the existing footprint with same number of bedrooms will be verified by the County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use, Building Division (DPLU). DEH will verify that the project meets the criteria for an over the counter approval by contacting DPLU staff and the KIVA system. Minor deviations will be handled on a case-by-case basis. It is suggested that you contact DEH prior to plan submittal if you have any questions regarding this policy.

If the rebuild of the dwelling will result in a change in footprint of the house, an increase in bedroom number or a relocation of the house, the proposal will be reviewed the same as any proposed addition or remodel for a house served by an onsite wastewater system. OTC approvals for fire rebuilds with modifications will only be considered when there is sufficient documentation to demonstrate that the proposed structure will not impact the existing onsite wastewater system including the reserve disposal field or any off-site properties due to grading or setbacks. If an OTC approval cannot be granted, a layout review in the field with layout review fees will be required. All fire-rebuild layout submittals will be expedited. Any septic system relocation that is necessary for the rebuild will be charged a septic tank permit fee.

See DEH's Over the Counter Layout Approval Procedure Policy for more information regarding approval of additions or remodels.